

NOVA SCOTIA



LEGAL AID COMMISSION

Twenty-Fourth Annual Report

2000/2001

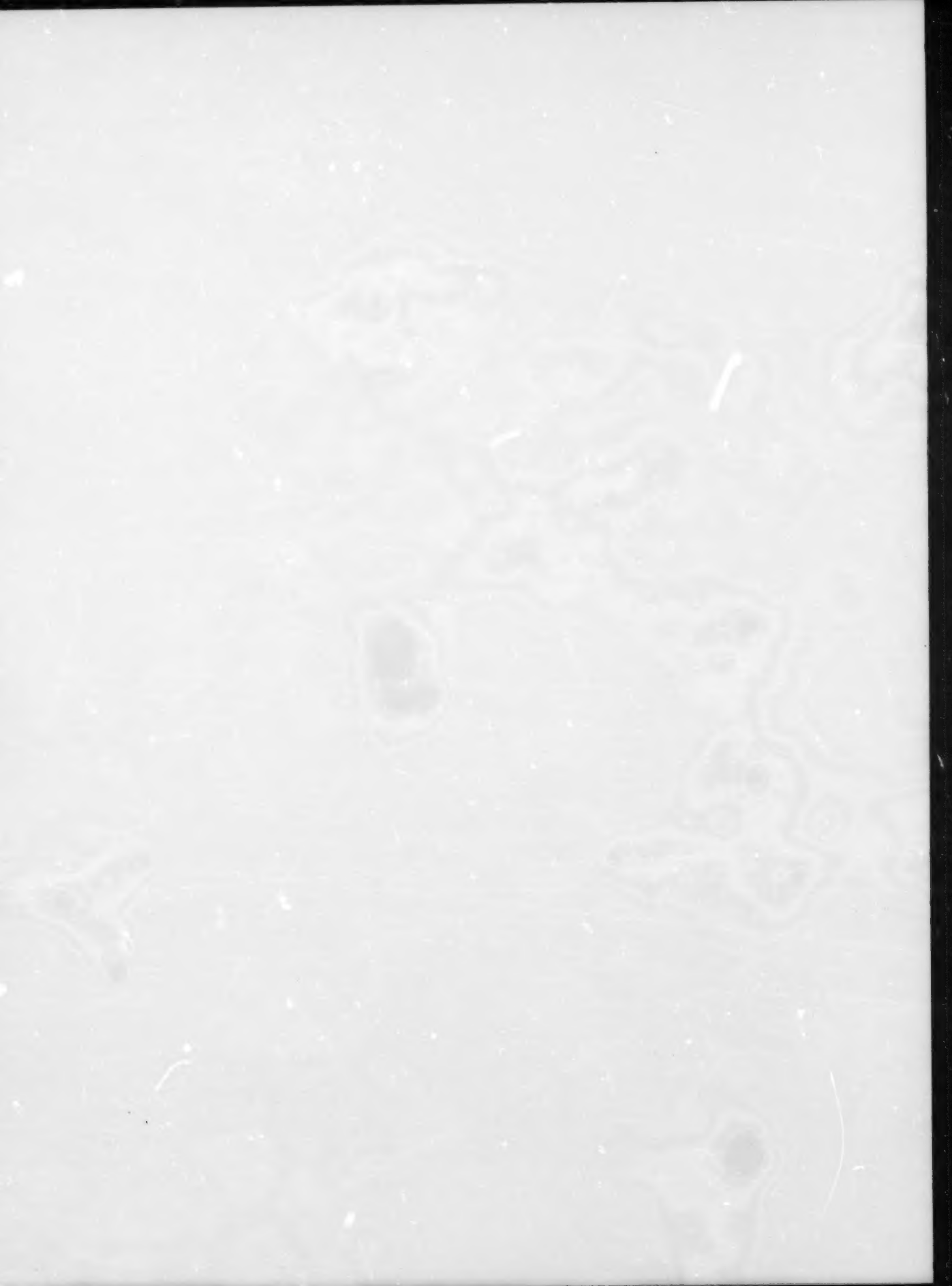


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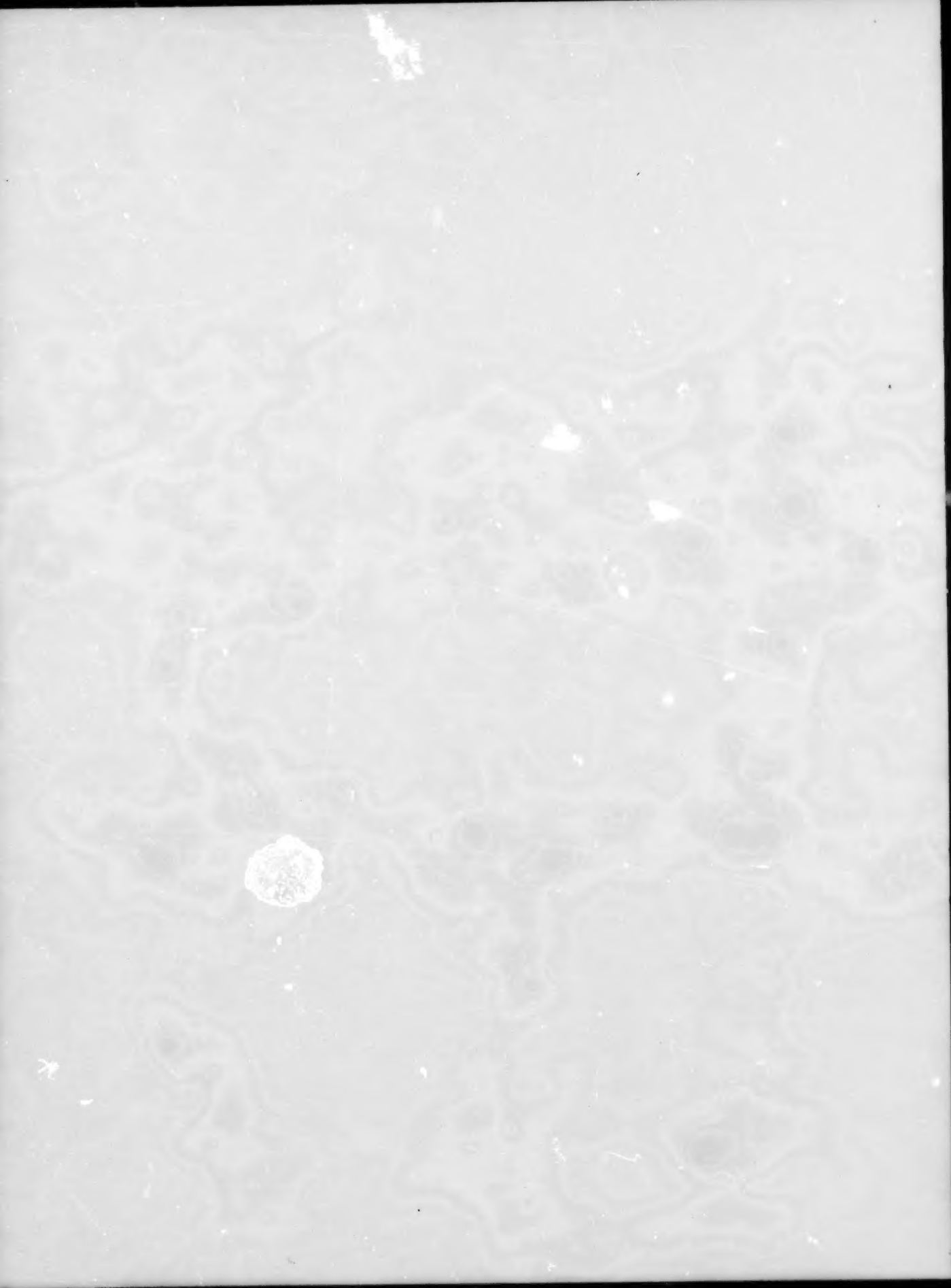


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MANDATE

The mandate of the Nova Scotia Legal Commission, in so far as Government funding permits, is:

- (a) To deliver quality legal representation to qualified applicants with priority for matters involving the liberty and civil rights of individual clients and for matters involving the integrity and protection of an individual's family.
- (b) Such other legal services as Government may contract with the Commission to provide to individuals or groups.

2000/2001 NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION
STRUCTURE

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Legal Aid Act
1989, R.S.N.S., c. 252

Attorney General
s.6(2), 9(5), 11(2)

Nova Scotia Legal Aid
Commission
Chairperson (1) Directors (16)

Executive Director
s.14(2)

MANAGEMENT

Executive Director
Executive Committee

Appeal
Committee

Commission
Secretary/Executive
Assistant

Staff Directors

Chief Financial
Officer
Administration
Office (5)

Managing Lawyers
(13)

SERVICE

Staff Lawyers (64)
(includes Managing Lawyers)
Support Staff (52)

Certificates
(2334)

Funding to Other Services:
(1) Dalhousie Legal Aid Service
(336 clients) \$237,790.00
(2) Telephone Duty Counsel to
Arrested/Detained Persons
(3051 callers) \$24,000.00

CONTACTS

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Truro, NS B2N 1E8
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Chief Financial Officer
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(902) 420-3471 Facsimile

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS AS OF MARCH 31, 2001

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>	<u>Representing</u>
M. Joseph Rizzetto	Sydney	October 5, 2001	Bar Society
M. Louise Campbell	Guysborough	December 19, 2001	Bar Society
David F. Curtis, Q.C.(Vice-Chair)	Truro	December 19, 2001	Bar Society
Michael A. Lambert	Halifax	December 19, 2001	Bar Society
Christopher Manning	Kentville	December 19, 2001	Bar Society
Glen G. McDougall, Q.C. (Chair)	Sydney	January 14, 2002	Justice
Heidi Marshall	Sydney	January 14, 2002	Justice
Angus E. Schurman	Halifax	January 13, 2003	Bar Society
A. William Cox, Q.C.	Halifax	April 30, 2003	Justice
Betty L. Josey	Dartmouth	April 30, 2003	Justice
J. Michael Kuna	Sydney	April 30, 2003	Justice
Vincent B. MacDonald	Halifax	April 30, 2003	Justice
Linda Pellerine	Trenton	April 30, 2003	Justice
R. Gordon Murray, Q.C.	New Glasgow	July 26, 2003	Bar Society
Clarence Guest	Halifax	-	Public Service
Shulamith Medjuck	Halifax	-	Public Service
Vacant	-	-	Justice

STANDING COMMITTEES AS OF MARCH 31, 2001

APPEAL

Panel A

Angus E. Schurman, Chair
M. Louise Campbell
Vincent B MacDonald
M. Joseph Rizzetto

Panel B

Michael A. Lambert, Chair
A. William Cox, Q.C.
Betty L. Josey
J. Michael Kuna

BUDGET

David F. Curtis, Q.C. (Vice-Chair) Chair
Shulamith Medjuck
Clarence Guest
R. Gordon Murray, Q.C.
Angus Schurman
A. William Cox, Q.C.

Glen G. McDougall, Q.C. (Chair)
T. Gerard Lukeman, Q.C. (Executive Director)
Walter I. Yeadon (Director)
Anne Malick, Q.C. (Director)
Resource - David J. Slaunwhite
(Chief Financial Officer)

EXECUTIVE

Glen G. McDougall, Q.C., Chair
R. Gordon Murray, Q.C.
T. Gerard Lukeman, Q.C. (Executive Director)
Walter I. Yeadon (Director)

Anne Malick, Q.C. (Director)
Resource - David J. Slaunwhite
(Chief Financial Officer)
Resource - Lisa Stokkeskog
(Commission Secretary)

PLANNING & POLICY

Michael A. Lambert, Chair
David F. Curtis, Q.C. (Vice-Chair)
M. Joseph Rizzetto

Linda Pellerine
J. Michael Kuna
Resource - Anne Malick, Q.C. (Director)

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Glen G. McDougall, Q.C., Chair
David F. Curtis, Q.C. (Vice-Chair)
Angus E. Schurman
Michael A. Lambert

Christopher Manning
Heidi Marshall
Resource - Walter I. Yeadon (Director)

OFFICE LOCATIONS

Amherst

P.O. Box 262, 55 Church Street
Amherst, NS B4H 3Z2
(902) 667-7544 / (902) 667-0030 Fax

Annapolis Royal

P.O. Box 188, 253 St. George Street
Annapolis Royal, NS B0S 1A0
(902) 532-2311 / (902) 532-7488 Fax

Antigonish

273 Main Street
Antigonish, NS B2G 2C3
(902) 863-3350 / (902) 863-7598 Fax

Bridgewater

724 King Street
Bridgewater, NS B4V 1B6
(902) 543-4658 / (902) 543-3044 Fax

Dartmouth

300-99 Wyse Road
Dartmouth, NS B3A 4S5
(902) 420-8815 Family/Civil
(902) 420-8818 Criminal
(902) 420-6562 Fax

Halifax-South

400-5475 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, NS B3J 3T2
(902) 420-6583 / (902) 420-1260 Fax

Halifax-North

2830 Agricola Street
Halifax, NS B3K 4E4
(902) 420-3450 / (902) 420-6565
902) 420-2873 Fax

Legal Aid Litigation Office

42 West Street
Antigonish, NS B2G 2H5
(902) 863-7171 / 863-7172 Fax

Kentville

325 Main Street, Salon B
Kentville, NS B4N 1K5
(902) 679-6110 / (902) 679-6177 Fax

New Glasgow

174 Archimedes Street
New Glasgow, NS B2H 2T6
(902) 755-7020 / (902) 752-8733 Fax

Sydney

P.O. Box 1373, 201-336 Kings Road
Sydney, NS B1P 6K3
(902) 563-2295 / (902) 539-0489 Fax

Truro

102-523 Prince Street
Truro, NS B2N 1E8
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Windsor

P.O. Box 760, 138 Gerrish Street
Windsor, NS B0N 2T0
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Yarmouth

P.O. Box 163, 101 Water Street
Yarmouth, NS B5A 4B2
(902) 742-7827 / (902) 742-0676

Sub-Offices

Guysborough - contact Antigonish
Liverpool - 354-3215 contact BW
Port Hawkesbury - 1-888-817-0116

Office of the Executive Director

401-5475 Spring Garden Road
Halifax, NS B3J 3T2
(902) 420-6573 / (902) 420-3471 Fax

NSLA STAFF COMPLEMENT AS OF MARCH 31, 2001

OFFICE	Exec. Dir.	Staff Dir.	Lawyers	Admin. Support	Clerical	Chief Financial Officer	Prison Liaison	Community/ Youth Court Support Workers	Library	MIS	Article Clerks	Total
Administration	1	1		4		1			1	1		9
Amherst			2		2.6		1					5.6
Annapolis Royal			2		1.6							3.6
Antigonish			4		3							7
Bridgewater			4		3							7
Dartmouth			9		6							15
Hal - South			8		4							12
Hal - North			8		6			2			1	17
Kentville			4		3							7
New Glasgow			4		3							7
Sydney			10		6			1			1	18
Truro		1	2		2.6							5.6
Windsor			2		1.6							3.6
Yarmouth			3		2.6							5.6
Litigation			2									2
TOTALS	1	2	64	4	45	1	1	3	1	1	2	125

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

In this Report, I am given the opportunity to speak to the reader as to the state of Legal Aid in Nova Scotia during the year 2000/2001.

I am pleased to report that our front-line people, both support staff and lawyers, continue to provide top quality legal representation to our clientele. Their dedication and commitment to the concept of providing quality legal representation to eligible applicants is at the very highest level. There are many pressures placed on our staff caused by limited resources, by clients under severe stress from their legal problems, and by the demands of the justice system. To our staff, I offer on behalf of the Commission my sincere thanks for a job well done. It is because of you that Legal Aid continues to meet the challenges of its mandate within the limits of the resources available to us.

In summary form, I wish to share with you some of the significant developments with Nova Scotia Legal Aid this past year.

(a) Business Hours Telephone Duty Counsel (BHTDC)

A pilot project was implemented in August 2000 whereby a central telephone number was provided so that individuals, who are arrested or detained by peace officers during business hours, can access telephone duty counsel by having their call placed to one location in our Halifax North Office.

Our support staff then locate an available staff lawyer in one of our thirteen offices to take the call. This process was designed to alleviate situations of delay where police had to call a number of different Legal Aid Offices to locate an available lawyer to advise the person in detention. This would usually arise in areas served by smaller offices as their full complement of lawyers would frequently be away from the offices attending the courts.

I am pleased to report that this new method of providing telephone duty counsel is working smoothly. I appreciate the cooperation of the support staff at the Halifax North Office in taking on this new responsibility.

(b) Expansion of Cells Duty Counsel Program

This program was initiated at the Spring Garden Road site of the Provincial Court in May 1998. In February 2001, the program was expanded to include the Dartmouth (Pleasant Street) site of the Court. This program extension is viewed very positively by the staff lawyers in the Dartmouth Office as it assists them in handling their criminal caseload.

Comments on this program from other sectors of the justice system have been very positive. Currently, the service is being provided in Dartmouth on a trial basis by hiring a private law firm on a short-term contract arrangement. In the upcoming year, the Commission will have to determine whether this program should be placed on a more permanent footing and whether the funding is available to do so.

(c) Annual Staff Meeting

It is with regret that I note that in September 2000, the Annual Meeting for staff lawyers was cancelled as one of a number of cost-saving measures implemented to keep spending within the limits of the funding made available to us.

This meeting for staff lawyers is mainly educational in nature, but it is also a great opportunity for staff lawyers from across the Province to meet one another and to build a sense of being on the same team.

I look forward to reestablishing the Annual Meeting. In my opinion, the benefit of an Annual Meeting to our people is worth the cost.

(d) Personal Computer Network

I wish to express my thanks to the Department of Justice for the significant special funding contribution made by the Department to the Commission for the purpose of assisting the Commission in providing up-to-date personal computer networks in our thirteen service offices. Planning is well advanced with respect to the roll-out of the new system with installation expected to be completed by the end of November 2001. The

new system will enable staff to do on-line legal research, use e-mail and have the latest word processing software.

In short, the new computer systems will bring our offices into the modern world so that we can effectively communicate with others and use the current online legal research resources.

(e) Case Management System (CMS)

Our CMS is currently running on our old UNIX computer system. Our current Progress software will not run on a modern windows-based personal computer network. Planning has been initiated for the transfer of our CMS to a computer program that will run in our new environment. This is a complex and time-consuming undertaking requiring a significant commitment from Administration staff to ensure the new CMS can pass audit requirements and meets the many demands that are placed on such a system.

(f) Pay Raise

It is noted that a pay raise was received in April 2001 by all staff at Legal Aid of 1.9% retroactive to April 1, 2000. This pay raise was the same as that granted by the Province to all its non-unionized staff. The Department of Justice made a supplementary grant to the Commission's budget to cover the cost of this pay raise. The support of the Department in this regard is essential and appreciated.

(g) Reorganization of Offices

This year saw the completion of the reorganization of the three offices of Legal Aid in the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM). The major change was the centralizing of all family staff lawyers and support staff in Halifax to the Halifax North Office (Halifax North). As well, young offender services for youth aged 12-15 years were consolidated at the Halifax North Office. This resulted in those lawyers who mainly appear in the courts located in the north end of Halifax being in a location more proximate to their courts.

The Halifax South Legal Aid Office continues to provide criminal legal aid services and young offender legal aid services for youth aged 16 and 17

years. These staff lawyers generally appear in the Provincial Courts located at the Spring Garden Road Courthouse.

These moves necessitated the movement of both staff lawyers and support staff among the two offices in Halifax and the one office in Dartmouth. In my opinion, the reorganization is more effectively serving our clients in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

(h) Youth Court Support Worker

A pilot project was implemented in January 2001 wherein a Youth Court Support Worker was located in the Halifax North Office to provide support services to youths aged 12 to 15 years appearing in the Youth Court in north end Halifax. At the same time, a Youth Court Support Worker was assigned to the Sydney Legal Aid Office to provide the same type of service to young offender clients of the Sydney Office. We were pleased to be able to fill these positions from our support staff by way of internal competition. The two resulting vacancies in support staff were filled by term contract hires. The costs of the two Youth Court Support Workers are covered by way of a special grant from the Federal Department of Justice as part of the implementation program relating to the new *Youth Criminal Justice Act*.

For the three months from January to March 2001, services were provided to 68 youths by the Youth Court Support Worker in the Halifax North Office and 67 youths were provided with services from the Worker in the Sydney Office.

The foregoing is an overview of some significant changes in Nova Scotia Legal Aid over the past year. The noting of these changes should not obscure the fact that the great bulk of our legal work is the day-to-day provision of legal services to individuals facing serious criminal charges, or family/civil law issues of child protection, custody/access, adult protection, and financial support matters.

The Commission had 24,087 requests for Legal Aid last year. Of these, 2,024 requests were rejected as being ineligible for Legal Aid. At the year end, 353 individuals were in the process of having their eligibility determined and so are recorded as "Pending Decision". In the remaining 21,710 requests, the Commission provided these individuals with legal services.

These 21,710 services were provided in the following areas of law:

- ❖ we provided 11,203 services to adult individuals facing criminal charges;
- ❖ we provided 3,560 services to young persons (aged 12 to 17 inclusive) facing criminal charges;
- ❖ we provided individuals facing charges under Provincial Statutes with 41 services. We rarely provide services for provincial offences except when incarceration is a possibility or the particular circumstances of the individual necessitate such representation;
- ❖ we provided 6,385 services to individuals facing family law problems with a priority being placed on child protection matters and custody disputes; and,
- ❖ we provided 521 services to individuals with a variety of civil legal issues.

For more details, I would refer you to the information charts provided later in this Annual Report.

At this point, I would like to draw the reader's attention to a number of important issues the Commission will face in the upcoming year:

(i) Salary Parity

In the upcoming year, 2001/2002, we expect the arbitration award to be delivered as between the Nova Scotia Crown Attorneys' Association and the Province of Nova Scotia. This arbitration will be focused on salary levels for staff lawyers at the Public Prosecution Service (PPS). The Commission will have to be ready to respond and deal with the issue of appropriate salary levels for Commission staff lawyers and the funding necessary for those increases, once the results of the arbitration on PPS salaries is released.

(ii) Tariff Hourly Rate:

A further issue that is expected to come before the Commission for resolution in fiscal year 2001/2002 is to review the Tariff hourly rate paid to lawyers representing Legal Aid applicants under Certificate. The current rate is \$50.00 per hour. Our offices report more and more difficulty in having members of the private Bar take on Legal Aid cases at the current rate. This issue is becoming so serious, that, if not resolved in a timely

fashion, the result will be Legal Aid applicants in conflict situations may find themselves appearing in court without appropriate legal representation.

(iii) Secure Treatment Facility:

The Province has announced the establishment of a secure treatment facility in Truro, Nova Scotia to provide various services to young people who are the subject of proceedings under the *Children and Family Services Act*. In effect, young people will be admitted to this facility for various kinds of counselling and treatment services whether they consent or not. The Commission has been informed that all court hearings in relation to young persons admitted to this facility will take place in the Family Court in Truro.

As a result of the foregoing, I expect the Truro Office of Nova Scotia Legal Aid will experience a large increase in demand for legal representation on Secure Treatment Hearings in Family Court. We need to be ready to meet this demand which is expected to materialize by the summer of 2002. The Commission will need to consider increasing the number of staff lawyers in the Truro Office to be ready to respond to this expected surge in demand.

In closing out my Annual Report, I can do no better than share with you the thoughts expressed by a lawyer about their experience as one of our staff lawyers:

Leaving Legal Aid is the hardest professional decision I have ever made. While some people might have thought I was never coming back, I have truly struggled with this decision. I thought a lot about the fact that some people would see leaving Legal Aid as step up in the profession, that working at Legal Aid makes us somehow less a lawyer or not a "real lawyer".

After five years of hearing the comments about how can you work with "those people" and how can you stand to deal with such depressing thankless situations day after day, I know what to say. I have been truly fortunate to have the opportunity to develop my legal experience and my character at the knee of some of the finest human beings one could wish to meet. Lawyers like ... (staff lawyer named) ...

taught me to value the opportunity to be involved in the lives of people who truly did not have the opportunities or chances that many of us take for granted. She taught me to sit and truly listen to people, not be afraid to care and fight like I was a "real lawyer" for all of my clients. But most all to know that all people are valuable, all people deserve chances and all people must be treated with respect. I hope I have made our clients feel proud to be represented by Legal Aid and satisfied with the service I have provided them.

That quotation, for me, summarizes with clarity the ideal qualities found in the staff lawyers that I am privileged to know.

T. Gerard Lukeman, Q.C.
Executive Director

NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION

FINANCIAL ELIGIBILITY TABLE

Legal Aid may be granted to a person on Social Assistance or in an equivalent financial position where there is merit in providing legal assistance in certain areas of family/civil and criminal law.

A person is in a position equivalent to that of someone on Social Assistance when the gross monthly income of the person and his/her spouse, including common-law spouse, is less than the amount set out below. (Child Tax Credit is not counted in income) and the person's monthly expenses for shelter, food, miscellaneous, transportation and the cost of the legal service requested is greater than the amount set out below. (Maximum allowance for transportation is \$18.00)

HOUSEHOLD	GROSS MONTHLY INCOME	HOUSEHOLD	GROSS MONTHLY INCOME
One Adult	\$1067.00	Two Adults	\$1424.00
and 1 Child	\$1416.00	and 1 Child	\$1708.00
and 2 Children	\$1700.00	and 2 Children	\$1932.00
and 3 Children	\$1924.00	and 3 Children	\$2156.00
and 4 Children	\$2148.00	and 4 Children	\$2380.00
and 5 Children	\$2372.00	and 5 Children	\$2604.00
and 6 Children	\$2596.00	and 6 Children	\$2828.00
and 7 Children	\$2820.00	and 7 Children	\$3052.00

Applications Received by Method of Service

From April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001 with Comparative

Disposition	2000/2001	1999/2000	Change	
Full Service				
Staff Lawyers	12,279	12,567	(288)	-2.3%
Private Lawyers	2,871	2,658	213	8.0%
Dalhousie Legal Aid	336	256	80	31.3%
Full Service	15,486	15,481	5	0.0%
Summary Service				
Reciprocal - Outgoing	97	63	34	54.0%
Staff Duty Counsel	308	273	35	12.8%
Cells Duty Counsel	1,469	1,117	352	31.5%
Telephone Duty Counsel	3051	3,128	(77)	-2.5%
Advice	1,299	1,523	(224)	-14.7%
Summary Service	6,224	6,104	120	2.0%
Accepted Applications	21,710	21,585	125	0.6%
Rejected Applications	2,024	2,160	(136)	-6.3%
Pending Decision	353	258	95	36.8%
Grand Total	24,087	24,003	84	0.3%

Applications Received by Area of Law
From April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001

Disposition	Criminal Adult	Criminal Y. O.	Provincial	Family	Civil	Total	%
Full Service							
Staff Lawyers	6,288	1,910	18	3,847	216	12,279	51.0%
Private Lawyers	1,068	267	0	1,514	22	2,871	11.9%
Dalhousie Legal Aid	0	54	0	129	153	336	1.4%
Full Service	7,356	2,231	18	5,490	391	15,486	64.3%
Summary Service							
Reciprocal - Outgoing	0	0	0	97	0	97	0.4%
Staff Duty Counsel	265	28	5	7	3	308	1.3%
Cells Duty Counsel	1,400	69	0	0	0	1,469	6.1%
Telephone Duty Counsel	2,658	393	0	0	0	3,051	12.7%
Advice	325	38	18	791	127	1,299	5.4%
Summary Service	4,648	528	23	895	130	6,224	25.8%
Accepted Applications	12,004	2,759	41	6,385	521	21,710	90.1%
Rejected Applications	753	28	64	1,038	141	2,024	8.4%
Pending Decision	86	4	0	253	10	353	1.5%
Grand Total	12,843	2,791	105	7,676	672	24,087	100.0%
Percent	53.3%	11.6%	0.4%	31.9%	2.8%	100.0%	-

Matters Completed

From April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001 with Comparative

Disposition	2000/2001	1999/2000	Change	
Full Service				
Staff Lawyers	11,973	12,509	(536)	-4.3%
Private Lawyers	2,334	2,548	(214)	-8.4%
Dalhousie Legal Aid	336	256	80	31.3%
Full Service	14,643	15,313	(670)	-4.4%
Summary Service				
Reciprocal - Outgoing	97	71	26	36.6%
Staff Duty Counsel	313	275	38	13.8%
Cells Duty Counsel	1,470	1,148	322	28.0%
Telephone Duty Counsel	3051	3,128	(77)	-2.5%
Advice	1,353	1,577	(224)	-14.2%
Summary Service	6,284	6,199	85	1.4%
Total Services Completed	20,927	21,512	(585)	-2.7%

Matters Completed by Area of Law

From April, 1 2000 to March 31, 2001

Disposition	Criminal Adult	Criminal Y. O.	Provincial	Family	Civil	Total	%
Full Service							
Staff Lawyers	6,218	1,851	18	3,713	173	11,973	57.2%
Private Lawyers	853	229	0	1,236	16	2,334	11.2%
Dalhousie Legal Aid	0	54	0	129	153	336	1.6%
Full Service	7,071	2,134	18	5,078	342	14,643	70.0%
Summary Service							
Reciprocal - Outgoing	0	0	0	97	0	97	0.5%
Staff Duty Counsel	270	27	5	8	3	313	1.5%
Cells Duty Counsel	1,401	69	0	0	0	1,470	7.0%
After Hours Telephone Duty Counsel	2,658	393	0	0	0	3,051	14.6%
Advice	348	45	19	813	128	1,353	6.5%
Summary Service	4,677	534	24	918	131	6,284	30.0%
Total Services Completed	11,748	2,668	42	5,996	473	20,927	100.0%
Percent	56.1%	12.7%	0.2%	28.7%	2.3%	100.0%	

Number of Full Service Matters Completed
From April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001

Full Service Matters	AM	AR	AT	BW	DR	Hfx North	Hfx South	KE	NG	SY	TR	WI	YA	Staff Total	Private Lawyer	Dal
Criminal Adult																
Homicide	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	4	12	0
Attempted murder	1	0	1	0	2	1	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	7	0	0
Robbery	1	2	1	0	20	6	19	5	2	8	1	1	1	67	35	0
Sexual assault	3	19	5	10	18	8	11	4	7	13	8	8	4	118	32	0
Sexual abuse	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	7	0	0
Aggravated assault	1	3	2	5	35	40	8	7	10	14	50	11	5	191	0	0
Assault	32	54	41	55	174	38	266	100	72	177	25	59	27	1,120	279	0
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	0	0
Arson	0	0	3	0	1	0	1	1	2	4	0	0	0	12	6	0
Weapons/Explosives	2	2	2	8	14	9	10	5	3	8	7	6	1	77	18	0
Break & Enter	28	30	12	28	47	63	54	28	33	56	15	32	12	438	90	0
Fraud/False pretence	3	9	5	14	52	26	43	9	36	32	44	18	5	296	10	0
Theft	20	24	23	15	210	123	236	38	34	135	39	32	24	953	61	0
Possession of stolen property	7	0	1	6	28	22	33	11	11	21	6	10	8	164	0	0
Property damage/Mischief	4	16	8	9	20	13	22	29	10	29	12	7	13	192	5	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	28	0	44	0	0	1	0	1	0	74	3	0
Gaming/Betting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public order offence	1	1	4	6	0	27	17	1	0	8	7	7	0	79	7	0
Administration of justice	14	0	4	16	1	10	2	10	0	52	22	12	0	143	6	0
Traffic/Import of drugs	11	4	9	5	31	14	58	13	1	5	7	9	9	176	0	0
Possession of drugs	4	14	11	17	15	21	15	9	19	10	8	23	9	175	59	0
C.C. Motor vehicle offence	2	8	15	4	8	13	7	4	4	10	9	9	0	93	7	0
Impaired driving	3	11	13	12	21	20	31	23	16	59	22	19	10	260	8	0
Forgery/Uttering	2	4	4	5	5	4	3	3	0	6	2	1	0	39	8	0
Criminal negligence	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
Uttering threats	7	13	13	17	54	13	50	13	15	58	5	8	13	279	0	0
Conspiracy	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	3	0	0
Peace Bond	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	2	0	0	1	6	0	0
Breach of probation/Order variation	26	46	35	43	127	31	95	84	76	179	27	59	36	864	0	0
Appeal	4	0	1	0	4	0	7	0	4	2	1	3	0	26	10	0
Other	9	46	8	17	61	26	46	9	20	61	22	10	17	352	195	0
Criminal Adult Total	185	306	221	294	979	528	1,081	409	376	953	344	347	195	6,218	853	0

Number of Full Service Matters Completed
From April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001

Full Service Matters	AM	AR	AT	BW	DR	Hfx North	Hfx South	KE	NG	SY	TR	WI	YA	Staff Total	Private Lawyer	Dal
Criminal Young Offender																
Homicide	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0
Attempted murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Robbery	0	0	0	0	18	1	16	0	0	0	4	2	0	41	14	3
Sexual assault	1	0	3	0	7	2	9	8	0	5	3	2	2	42	5	0
Sexual abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0
Aggravated assault	1	0	1	4	16	5	7	3	1	1	1	0	1	41	0	0
Assault	14	2	4	20	31	7	54	17	13	28	15	9	6	220	49	5
Kidnapping	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Arson	1	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	7	3	0
Weapons/Explosives	1	0	0	4	6	1	5	0	1	1	1	4	0	24	4	0
Break & Enter	15	3	5	27	32	16	36	20	11	15	10	26	13	229	43	12
Fraud/False pretence	0	0	2	2	1	0	7	1	0	0	7	7	0	27	4	0
Theft	16	1	10	15	59	11	90	29	21	26	21	20	10	329	42	10
Possession of stolen property	2	0	1	5	13	5	6	5	0	4	4	2	3	50	0	0
Property damage/Mischief	2	1	3	6	20	0	37	14	4	11	6	7	11	122	7	0
Prostitution	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0
Gaming/Betting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Public order offence	0	0	1	0	0	3	20	2	0	1	1	0	0	28	0	0
Administration of justice	3	0	0	3	0	1	2	4	0	10	0	3	0	26	0	0
Traffic/Import of drugs	0	0	0	6	2	2	6	2	2	4	0	0	1	25	0	0
Possession of drugs	1	2	6	5	4	2	5	1	4	2	3	1	0	36	5	1
C.C. Motor vehicle offence	0	0	0	2	0	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	6	3	0
Impaired driving	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	3	1	0
Forgery/Uttering	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	3	0	0
Criminal negligence	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Uttering threats	1	0	1	6	15	1	18	9	7	16	1	3	4	82	0	0
Conspiracy	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Peace Bond	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	3	0	0
Breach of probation/Order variation	25	2	14	44	43	5	37	39	34	68	12	24	15	362	0	0
Y.O.A. Transfer	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Y.O.A. Review	1	0	1	8	3	1	2	3	5	4	3	7	9	47	0	0
Appeal	0	0	0	0	1	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	5	2	0
Other	2	3	1	10	8	4	29	6	4	9	2	3	6	87	46	23
Criminal Young Offender Total	86	14	54	169	284	68	393	164	109	214	94	120	82	1,851	229	54

Number of Full Service Matters Completed
From April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001

Full Service Matters	AM	AR	AT	BW	DR	Hfx North	Hfx South	KE	NG	SY	TR	WI	YA	Staff Total	Private Lawyer	Dal
Provincial																
Wildlife Act	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0
Motor Vehicle Act	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	2	0	0
Liquor Control Act	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	6	0	0
Appeal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	3	0	1	1	8	0	0
Provincial Total	0	2	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	8	0	3	2	18	0	0
Family																
Separation	12	40	22	48	38	20	34	23	52	56	33	29	36	443	19	6
Divorce	5	34	33	29	24	48	38	16	67	44	35	9	13	395	48	15
Custody	52	27	25	30	141	111	116	92	58	56	29	27	39	803	222	18
Children & Family Services	21	17	17	19	41	45	27	26	14	42	10	12	15	306	260	14
Enforcement	0	2	4	2	2	7	3	1	5	9	5	0	2	42	18	2
Application to vary	31	15	27	52	40	47	19	44	67	93	40	2	43	520	182	16
Family maintenance	7	25	62	90	61	60	56	49	64	194	70	12	64	814	86	18
Matrimonial property	3	2	6	5	0	9	0	1	7	8	9	3	0	53	14	3
Access	6	6	12	13	25	33	20	10	28	19	10	11	28	225	158	16
Paternity	0	0	1	2	2	6	4	1	4	5	0	0	2	27	15	1
Appeal	1	3	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	2	1	0	0	12	6	3
Other	1	3	5	4	2	10	14	1	10	10	6	2	5	73	208	17
Family Total	139	174	214	294	383	398	331	264	376	538	248	107	247	3,713	1,236	129
Civil																
Litigation	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	3	2	1	0	1	0	11	4	153
Non-litigation	0	0	4	0	4	9	1	1	1	0	0	17	2	39	1	0
Admin. Tribunal	6	0	3	0	0	5	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0
Immigration	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
Review Board	1	0	0	0	24	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25	0	0
Adult Protection	0	0	1	0	9	8	10	0	0	1	0	0	0	29	9	0
Appeal	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	1	0
Other	6	7	3	0	1	7	0	2	0	16	0	2	4	48	1	0
Civil Total	13	8	14	0	42	29	11	7	3	18	0	20	8	173	16	153
Grand Total	423	504	503	757	1,689	1,024	1,817	844	864	1,731	686	597	534	11,973	2,334	336

Certificates Completed by Private Lawyers

From April 1, 2000 to March 31, 2001

Office	Criminal Adult	Criminal Y. O.	Provincial	Family	Civil	Total	%
Amherst	46	12	0	46	0	104	4.5%
Annapolis Royal	7	0	0	34	0	41	1.8%
Antigonish	25	4	0	57	2	88	3.8%
Bridgewater	25	18	0	69	2	114	4.9%
Dartmouth	158	42	0	114	11	325	13.9%
Halifax North	27	10	0	106	0	143	6.1%
Halifax South	113	30	0	79	0	222	9.5%
Kentville	51	0	0	51	0	102	4.4%
New Glasgow	40	0	0	68	0	108	4.6%
Sydney	203	67	0	394	1	665	28.5%
Truro	75	13	0	84	0	172	7.4%
Windsor	34	13	0	41	0	88	3.8%
Yarmouth	49	20	0	93	0	162	6.9%
Total	853	229	0	1,236	16	2,334	100.0%
Percent	36.5%	9.8%	0.0%	53.0%	0.7%	100.0%	

AFTER HOURS TELEPHONE DUTY COUNSEL**APRIL 1, 2000 TO MARCH 31, 2001**

Month	Criminal Adult	Criminal Young Offender	Unknown	Total
April	183	37	7	227
May	161	36	31	228
June	228	33	30	291
July	222	26	9	257
August	250	37	1	288
September	220	34	22	276
October	218	49	11	278
November	237	50	2	289
December	175	17	11	203
January	236	36	8	280
February	172	15	8	195
March	200	23	16	239
TOTALS	2502	393	156	3051

RECIPROCALs

APRIL 1, 2000 TO MARCH 31, 2001

Province	2000/2001			1999/2000		
	Outgoing	Incoming	Total	Outgoing	Incoming	Total
Alberta	16	4	20	7	10	17
British Columbia	9	14	23	8	9	17
Manitoba	2	1	3	2	3	5
New Brunswick	12	4	16	2	3	5
Newfoundland	10	12	22	7	4	11
Northwest Territories	0	0	0	3	1	4
Nunavut	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ontario	32	29	61	34	32	66
Prince Edward Island	4	2	6	3	0	3
Quebec	10	8	18	11	4	15
Saskatchewan	2	3	5	4	1	5
Yukon	0	0	0	0	0	0
Outside Canada	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTALS	97	77	174	81	67	148

**PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA
NOVA SCOTIA LEGAL AID COMMISSION
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
MARCH 31, 2001**

AUDITOR'S REPORT

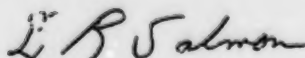
To the Minister of Justice; and

To the Chair and Members of the
Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission

I have audited the balance sheet of the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission as at March 31, 2001, and the statements of revenue and expenses, changes in net assets, and cash flows for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Commission's management. My responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on my audit.

I conducted my audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that I plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In my opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Commission as at March 31, 2001 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.



E.R. Salmon, FCA
Auditor General

Halifax, Nova Scotia
June 19, 2001

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Statement of Revenue and Expenses	1
Balance Sheet	2
Statement of Changes in Net Assets	3
Statement of Cash Flows	4
Notes to the Financial Statements	5 - 10
Schedule of Expenses	11

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission
Statement of Revenue and Expenses

Year Ended March 31

2001

2000

Revenue		
Grants – Province of Nova Scotia	\$ 11,375,434	\$ 11,263,174
Interest	229,485	159,461
Other income	49,737	12,820
	<u>11,654,656</u>	<u>11,435,455</u>
Expenses		
Amortization	56,670	42,143
Capital lease interest	2,980	5,068
Directors' fees	40,194	37,584
Equipment and maintenance	85,305	69,377
Library	146,950	142,742
Membership, meetings and conferences	176,972	206,993
Office disbursements	191,077	229,374
Private solicitors' fees (Note 7)	1,664,355	1,838,818
Professional and other fees	126,401	164,067
Salaries and benefits	7,361,831	7,269,570
Supplies and services	909,013	839,910
Travel	268,999	271,673
	<u>11,030,747</u>	<u>11,117,319</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses before special cases	<u>623,909</u>	<u>318,136</u>
Special cases (Note 9)		
Contribution from the Province of Nova Scotia	281,484	197,594
Contribution from client	16,530	11,282
	<u>298,014</u>	<u>208,876</u>
Expenses, special cases	<u>298,014</u>	<u>208,876</u>
	-	-
Excess of revenue of expenses	\$ <u>623,909</u>	\$ <u>318,136</u>

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission

Balance Sheet

March 31

2001

2000

Assets

Current

Cash	\$ 1,086,062	\$ 262,940
Investments (Note 3)	2,696,914	2,552,723
Receivables	295,664	74,757
Prepays	<u>30,063</u>	<u>38,160</u>
	4,108,703	2,928,580

Trust Fund - long service awards (Note 4)

1,163,900 1,065,156

Capital assets (Note 5)

181,950 93,538

\$ 5,454,553 \$ 4,087,274

Liabilities

Current

Payables and accruals (Notes 6 and 7)	\$ 1,288,228	\$ 1,266,522
Current portion of obligation under capital lease (Note 8)	13,065	17,449
Deferred contribution - special cases (Note 9)	<u>468,232</u>	<u>202,406</u>
	1,769,525	1,486,377

Long term

Early retirement incentive program (Note 10)	178,372	174,022
Long service awards (Note 11)	1,163,900	1,065,156
Obligation under capital lease (Note 8)	-	12,738
	<u>1,342,272</u>	<u>1,251,916</u>

Deferred contributions - capital assets (Note 12)

662,802 292,936
3,774,599 3,031,229

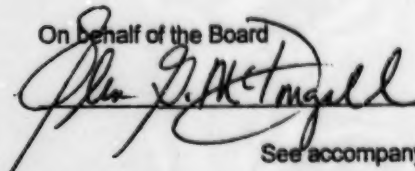
Net Assets

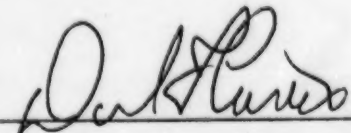
Unrestricted net assets	976,777	992,694
Net assets invested in capital assets (Page 4)	168,885	63,351
Reserve for future case completion (Page 4 & Note 13)	<u>534,292</u>	-
	1,679,954	1,056,045

\$ 5,454,553 \$ 4,087,274

Commitment and contingencies (Note 14)

On behalf of the Board

 Member

 Member

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission
Statement of Changes in Net Assets

Year Ended March 31

	2001		2000	
	Unrestricted Net Assets	Net Assets Invested in Capital Assets	Reserve for Future Case Completion	Total
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 992,894	\$ 63,351	\$ -	\$ 1,056,045
Excess of revenue over expenses	623,909	-	-	623,909
Purchase of capital assets	(145,082)	145,082	-	-
Depreciation	66,670	(66,670)	-	-
Capital lease repayment	(17,122)	17,122	-	-
Transfer to reserve for future case completion	(534,292)	-	534,292	-
Balance, end of year	\$ 976,777	\$ 168,885	\$ 534,292	\$ 1,679,954
				\$ 1,056,045

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission
Statement of Cash Flows

Year Ended March 31

2001

2000

Increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents

Operating

Excess of revenue over expenses	\$ 623,909	\$ 318,136
Depreciation	56,670	42,143
Amortization of deferred contributions - capital	<u>(30,134)</u>	<u>(56,175)</u>
	650,445	304,104

Change in non-cash operating
working capital (Note 16)

<u>(191,104)</u>	<u>174,899</u>
459,341	479,003

Financing

Principal repayments of capital lease	(17,122)	(14,059)
Increase in early retirement incentive program	4,350	6,306
Advances for special cases, net	265,828	202,406
Advances for capital asset purchases	<u>400,000</u>	<u>-</u>
653,054	194,653	

Investing

Increase in investments	(144,191)	(1,102,840)
Purchase of capital assets	<u>(145,082)</u>	<u>(46,043)</u>
(289,273)	(1,148,883)	

Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents

823,122	(475,227)
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Cash and cash equivalents,

Beginning of year

<u>262,940</u>	<u>738,167</u>
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End of year

\$ <u>1,086,062</u>	\$ <u>262,940</u>
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See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission

Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2001

1. Authority

The Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission was established in 1977 pursuant to the Legal Aid Act. The Act and Regulations stipulate that the Commission can provide legal services to persons whose income is derived primarily from municipal or provincial social assistance or to persons in an equivalent position.

Commission activities are funded by a grant from the Province of Nova Scotia. The Province in turn receives a contribution from the Government of Canada for legal aid provided by the Commission.

2. Summary of significant accounting policies

Revenue

Operating grants are recorded on the accrual basis.

Contributions from the Province of Nova Scotia for the acquisition of capital assets are recorded as deferred contributions and are amortized to revenue in accordance with the amortization schedule for each capital asset acquired.

Capital assets

Capital assets are stated at cost and are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated useful lives:

Computer equipment	33.33% per year
Leasehold improvements	Over term of lease
Equipment under capital lease	33.33% per year

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents consist of cash on hand and balances with banks.

Special cases

Periodically, the Commission provides legal services to clients upon special request from the Department of Justice where the clients would not otherwise be eligible under the Commission's guidelines. Contributions and expenses related to these special cases are presented separately on the statement of revenue and expenses.

3. Investments

Investments consist of banker acceptance notes and are valued at cost, which approximates market value.

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2001

4. Trust Fund – long service awards

The Commission follows the provisions of the Civil Service Act with respect to the payment of long service awards to retiring employees. The Commission is responsible for the funding and eventual payment of these awards.

The Commission maintains a trust fund to provide for the eventual payment of awards and to administer long service award advances. The Commission provides contributions, from general operating funds, to defray future obligations for long service awards.

In prior years, employees with 15 years of employment could apply for an advance on their long service award. Advances are repayable upon retirement or termination, together with interest at the provincial borrowing rate which existed at the time of the advance. As at March 31, 2001, six employees have received advances. Advances plus accrued interest at March 31, 2001 totalled \$143,287 (2000 - \$143,469).

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 1,065,156	\$ 822,455
Add: Contribution from operating funds	59,989	207,415
Interest on long service award advances	7,818	8,837
Interest on investments	47,669	29,635
	<u>115,476</u>	<u>245,887</u>
Less: Long service awards paid to retiring employees	<u>16,732</u>	<u>3,186</u>
Balance, end of year	\$ 1,163,900	\$ 1,065,156
Consisting of:		
Cash	\$ 512	\$ 695
Investments and accrued interest on investments (Note 3)	1,020,101	772,385
Receivable – long service award advances and accrued interest on advances	143,287	143,469
Contribution due from operating funds	<u>-</u>	<u>148,607</u>
	<u>\$ 1,163,900</u>	<u>\$ 1,065,156</u>

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission **Notes to the Financial Statements**

March 31, 2001

5. Capital assets		2001		2000	
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net Book Value		Net Book Value
Computer equipment	\$ 152,746	\$ 61,638	\$ 91,108	\$	47,592
Leasehold improvements	121,558	42,987	78,571		16,952
Equipment under capital lease	50,124	37,853	12,271		28,994
	<u>\$ 324,428</u>	<u>\$ 142,478</u>	<u>\$ 181,950</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>93,538</u>

6. Accounts payable and accruals		2001		2000	
Supplies and services		\$ 177,328	\$	241,703	
Accrued private solicitors' fees (Note 7)		849,395		798,297	
Employee salaries and benefits		261,505		226,522	
		<u>\$ 1,288,228</u>	<u>\$</u>	<u>1,266,522</u>	

7. Measurement uncertainty

Measurement uncertainty is uncertainty in the determination of the amount at which an item is recognized in the financial statements. This exists when there is a variance between the recorded amount and another reasonable possible amount.

Measurement uncertainty in these financial statements is inherent in the recording of accrued private solicitors' fees. At the end of each fiscal year the Commission has a liability for work conducted by private solicitors that is not yet billed and paid. At March 31, 2001, a liability of \$849,395 (2000 - \$798,297) was recorded, of which \$709,156 (2000 - \$635,619) was estimated using a system that incorporates average costs and time frames for similar cases over the last two years. The estimate will vary from the eventual billings from private solicitors due to the specific requirements of each case.

8. Obligation under capital lease		2001		2000	
Blended monthly payments totalling \$1,675 for computer equipment leases, with varying expiry dates to April 2002		\$ 16,045	\$	33,819	
		(2,980)		(3,632)	
Plus: amount representing interest (average rate 15.5%)		13,065		30,187	
		(13,065)		(17,449)	
Less: current portion					
Long term portion		\$ -	\$	12,738	

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission
Notes to the Financial Statements
 March 31, 2001

9. Deferred contribution - special cases

Special case funding is received from the Province of Nova Scotia and is restricted solely for expenditures incurred in the process of defending the accused. Amounts not used for current expenditures are deferred to be applied against future cases. Any funding not committed at the conclusion of the cases must be returned to the Province of Nova Scotia. During the year ended March 31, 2001, the Commission provided legal services for three clients upon special request from the Department of Justice.

10. Early retirement incentive program

The Commission participated in an Early Retirement Incentive Program offered by the Province of Nova Scotia to crown agencies. A liability in the amount of \$191,279 (2000 - \$186,615) has been accrued as of March 31, 2001. This amount represents management's best estimate of the present value of the future payments required under the program. Of the total liability, \$12,907 (2000 - \$12,593) has been classified on the balance sheet as current and \$178,372 (2000 - \$174,022) has been classified as long-term.

Eligibility for the Program ended on March 31, 1998.

11. Long service awards

Employees of the Commission are entitled to long service awards upon retirement. The awards are based on the number of years of service of the employee, and are earned at the rate of one week's pay for every year of service, to a maximum of twenty-six weeks.

In 2001, the Commission engaged an outside consultant to estimate the liability relating to the awards. Based on the estimate of the present value of obligation respecting long service awards at March 31, 2001, the long service award trust funds of \$1,163,900 (2000 - \$1,065,156) are sufficient to fund the liability.

12. Deferred contributions - capital assets

In the 1999 fiscal year the Province of Nova Scotia contributed \$353,000 to the Commission to offset anticipated costs of upgrading the Commission's computer systems. A further \$400,000 was contributed in the 2001 fiscal year. The changes in the deferred contributions balance for the period are as follows:

	<u>2001</u>	<u>2000</u>
Balance, beginning of year	\$ 292,936	\$ 349,111
Plus: contributions received	400,000	-
Less: amounts amortized to revenue	<u>(30,134)</u>	<u>(56,175)</u>
Balance, end of year	\$ <u>662,802</u>	\$ <u>292,936</u>

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission Notes to the Financial Statements

March 31, 2001

13. Reserve for future case completion

During the 2001 fiscal year, the Commission decided to appropriate an amount from unrestricted net assets that approximates management's best estimate of the remaining cost to complete the cases that are in progress as at March 31, 2001.

14. Commitments and contingencies

- a. The Commission has entered into lease agreements for eleven of its offices. The remaining two offices do not have formal lease agreements. Lease agreements typically call for payment of a base rent plus a provision for the Commission's portion of operating costs and property taxes. Lease terms vary by office.

Minimum lease payments for signed lease agreements for the next five fiscal years, not including operating costs and taxes, are as follows:

2002	\$	510,213
2003	\$	462,756
2004	\$	455,028
2005	\$	455,028
2006	\$	344,367

- b. The Commission provides funding to Dalhousie Legal Aid Services. The Commission has agreed to provide a grant of \$69,000 to Dalhousie Legal Aid Services for the year ending March 31, 2002. In addition Dalhousie Legal Aid Services can bill an additional \$109,000 for conflict of interest cases.

15. Client Trust Funds

On March 31, 2001, \$71,189 (2000 - \$12,537) was held in trust for clients. These trust funds are accounted for separately and are not reflected in the financial statements.

16. Supplemental cash flow information

	2001	2000
Change in non cash operating working capital:		
Receivables	\$ (220,907)	\$ 52,141
Prepays	8,097	(2,979)
Payables and accruals	21,706	125,737
	<u>\$ (191,104)</u>	<u>\$ 174,899</u>
Cash and cash equivalents consist of:		
Cash on hand and balances with banks	<u>\$ 1,086,062</u>	<u>\$ 262,940</u>
Interest paid	<u>\$ 2,980</u>	<u>\$ 5,068</u>

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Notes to the Financial Statements
March 31, 2001

17. Pensions

Pursuant to Section 7 of the Legal Aid Act, all permanent employees of the Commission are entitled to receive pension benefits under the Province of Nova Scotia Public Service Superannuation Act. The plan is funded by equal employee and employer contributions. The employer contributions are included in the Commission's operating expenses. The Commission is not responsible for any unfunded liability with respect to the superannuation fund.

18. Comparative figures

Certain of the comparative figures for 2000 have been reclassified to conform with the financial statement presentation adopted for 2001.

Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission

Schedule of Expenses

Year Ended March 31, 2001

	<u>Budget</u>	<u>2001 Actual</u>	<u>2000 Actual</u>
Amortization	\$ -	\$ 56,670	\$ 42,143
Capital lease interest	-	2,980	5,088
Directors' fees	45,000	40,194	37,584
Equipment and maintenance			
Leasehold improvements	33,300	7,623	-
Office furniture and equipment	41,000	29,455	20,080
Office machine leasing	48,000	25,326	19,440
Office machine maintenance	41,700	22,991	29,857
	<u>164,000</u>	<u>85,395</u>	<u>69,377</u>
Library	145,000	146,950	142,742
Membership, meetings and conferences			
Membership and dues	140,000	131,270	136,549
Meetings and conferences	45,000	45,702	70,444
	<u>185,000</u>	<u>176,972</u>	<u>206,993</u>
Office disbursements			
Civil and family	100,000	90,450	93,023
Criminal	100,000	81,102	119,953
Young Offender	16,000	19,525	16,398
	<u>216,000</u>	<u>191,077</u>	<u>229,374</u>
Private solicitors' fees			
Civil and family - conflicts	1,016,515	911,624	984,066
Criminal - choice of counsel	200,000	(1,926)	202,607
Criminal - conflicts	486,786	606,037	504,588
Young offender - choice of counsel	-	1,146	-
Young offender - conflicts	145,899	147,473	147,557
	<u>1,849,200</u>	<u>1,664,358</u>	<u>1,838,818</u>
Professional and other fees			
Professional fees	156,000	126,401	126,853
Consultant fees	-	-	37,214
	<u>156,000</u>	<u>126,401</u>	<u>164,067</u>
Salaries and benefits	7,500,000	7,361,831	7,269,570
Supplies and services			
General cleaning and office expense	77,000	70,854	55,097
Heat, light and water	25,000	25,223	26,869
Miscellaneous	4,000	184	3,272
Printing and stationery	80,000	95,505	71,018
Rent, insurance and taxes	580,000	525,838	514,005
Telephone and postage	245,000	191,409	169,649
	<u>991,000</u>	<u>909,013</u>	<u>839,910</u>
Travel	271,700	268,999	271,673
	<u>\$ 11,522,900</u>	<u>\$ 11,030,747</u>	<u>\$ 11,117,319</u>

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Advice - Legal counsel provided to people who require only legal advice but no further legal service.

AM - Amherst Office

After Hours Telephone Duty Counsel - After hours legal advice provided on a contract basis by private lawyers.

Applications Pending Decision as to Service - Applications for Legal Aid received in the fiscal year for which a decision has yet to be made.

Applications Received by Method of Service - Applications for Legal Aid received in the fiscal year and how those applications were dealt with.

AR - Annapolis Royal Office

AT - Antigonish Office

BW - Bridgewater Office

Cells Duty Counsel - Legal representation provided on a contract basis by a private lawyer at the Halifax Provincial Court, Spring Garden Road. This representation is provided to only those individuals detained in cells. The Commission initiated the same service at Dartmouth Provincial Court site, Pleasant Street in February, 2001.

Certificate - Contract entered into between the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission and a private lawyer to provide legal representation to clients who qualify for Legal Aid services but cannot be represented by the local Nova Scotia Legal Aid Office due to conflicts of interest. Nova Scotia Legal Aid continues to give individuals charged with offences punishable by mandatory life imprisonment (murder) a choice of defence counsel and this results in Certificates being issued to private lawyers as well.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Dalhousie Legal Aid Service - An organization which receives a significant portion of its funding from the budget of the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission. The Dalhousie Legal Aid Service provides services to its clients through staff lawyers with the assistance of Dalhousie Law School students who are supervised by lawyers in the provision of any legal services.

DR - Dartmouth Office

Full Service - Full Service matters are all those matters which require a higher commitment of legal resources than can be serviced as a Summary Service.

Hfx North - Halifax Agricola Street Office

Hfx-South - Halifax Spring Garden Road Office

KE - Kentville Office

NG - New Glasgow Office

Matters Completed - Cases which concluded in the fiscal year.

Private Lawyers - Members of the private Bar representing clients by way of a Nova Scotia Legal Aid Certificate.

Reciprocal - Outgoing - An application for Legal Aid which is forwarded to another province where the Nova Scotia resident requires legal representation. All provinces and territories by agreement participate in this exchange of applications for Legal Aid.

Rejected Applications - Applicants for Nova Scotia Legal Aid who were not provided with service due to financial ineligibility, lack of merit, or the service requested was outside of the scope of service.

Staff Lawyers - Lawyers employed by the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission.

DEFINITION OF TERMS

Staff Duty Counsel - Lawyers employed by the Nova Scotia Legal Aid Commission who provide legal representation, either by telephone or in person, to people detained in the Provincial Court Cells or at a police station. The staff lawyers also on occasion provide Duty Counsel services to family or civil client as the situation may require.

Summary Service - Summary Service matters are those matters which require a lesser commitment of legal resources and are serviced through the following methods: Reciprocal - Outgoing, Staff Duty Counsel, Cells Duty Counsel, Telephone Duty Counsel or Advice.

SY - Sydney Office

TR - Truro Office

WI - Windsor Office

YA - Yarmouth Office